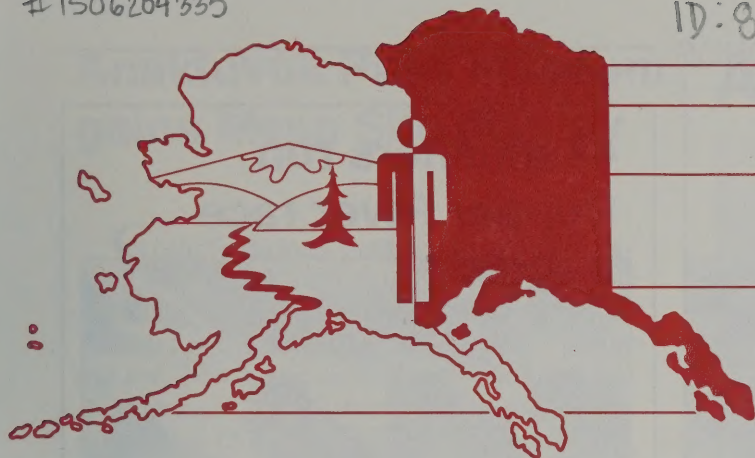


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managing public lands for multiple use

Issue 52 February/March 1995

I N S I D E

Musher Jeff King sets
new record for Copper
Basin 300 Sled Dog
Race

Skiing, skijoring, hiking
and dogsledding!
It's all happening at the
Anchorage District's
Campbell Tract

Museum display at
Anaktuvuk Pass tells
history and culture of
Nunamiut Eskimos

Alaska Fire Service
seeks minorities for
Northstar firefighting
crew



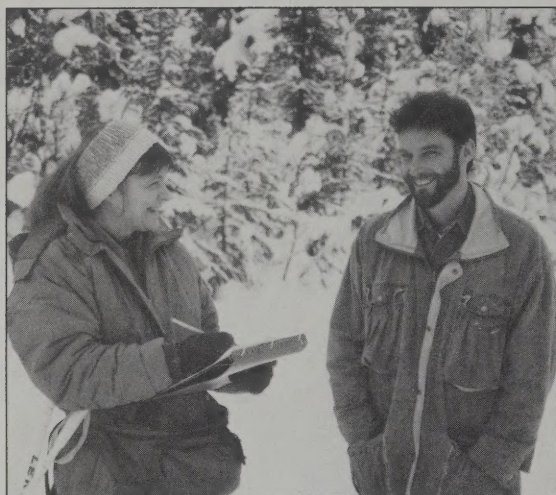
Ed Boy

Dogmushers race across BLM-managed public lands—from the Fur Rendezvous World Championship Sled Dog Race at the Campbell Tract in Anchorage to the Copper Basin 300 near Glennallen, to the long distance races like the Iditarod and Yukon Quest.

u.s. department of the interior • bureau of land management

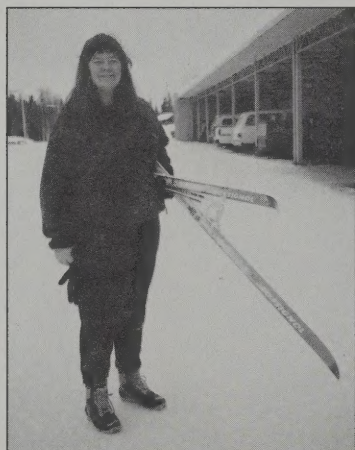
Survey polls visitors at Campbell Tract

Outdoor recreation specialist Janelle Eklund asks a visitor about his recreational preferences for the Campbell Tract.



Danielle Allen

BLM archaeologist Donna Redding-Gubitosa heads back to the BLM offices at the Campbell Tract, after a lunchtime workout on the ski trails. The tract is popular with cross-country skiers, ski jorers and dogmushers during the winter.



Danielle Allen

As Janelle Eklund walks out the doors of the BLM Campbell Tract offices into the parking lot, she mentally goes over the things she'll need—clipboard, questionnaires, maps and fanny pack. This diminutive woman, a BLM outdoor recreation planner, satisfied that she has everything, slips into her cross-country skis. She makes her way down the road and within minutes is swishing along a trail in the snowy woods. For two hours, she'll ask skiers, ski-jorers (a dog pulling a musher on skis), dog walkers and anyone willing to talk to her about their recreational experiences on the Campbell Tract.

Motorized vehicles are not allowed, which lends a certain tranquillity to the tract's 730 semi-wild acres of BLM land, located near the heart of Anchorage. "Most people say they like Campbell Tract because it's quiet and second, because they feel like they're in a wilderness," says Eklund.

BLM began conducting the visitor surveys in July of 1994. Stream bank erosion, habitat changes, ground cover loss, animal counts and trail damage surveys will also be conducted throughout the year.

Surveys will occur annually. BLM will monitor changes to the Campbell Tract, and manage the area with consideration of what is best for the tract's resources and its many recreational users.

—Danielle Allen

44 mushers run Copper River race



Ed Bovy

The annual running of the Copper Basin 300 Sled Dog race took place in the Glenallen District on January 14-16. A field of 44 mushers began the race at Meier's Roadhouse. Former Iditarod champ Jeff King of Denali National Park took first place.

King set a new race record time of two days, two hours and forty-nine minutes. Former Iditarod champion Martin Buser took second place, as he has for the six years that the race has been in existence, and Jay Cadzow took third place. Known as the "highway" race, the Copper Basin 300 course runs from roadhouse to roadhouse, and can be followed from the road in many areas. A portion of the route runs through federal lands managed by the BLM.

—KJ Mushovic



Ed Bovy

Anaktuvuk Pass museum gains Mesa Site display

Grant Spearman, curator of the Simon Pa-neak Memorial Museum in the village of Anaktuvuk Pass, spent most of December at the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks preparing a display based on research conducted by BLM archeologist Michael Kunz at the Mesa Site, about 120 miles west of the village. The display consists of hunting tools and a description of the Paleoindian people that occupied the site more than 11,000 years ago.

The Mesa display will enhance a unique collection of Nunamiut cultural and historical exhibits at the museum. The Nunamiut traditionally lived in the Brooks Range and inland areas of the North Slope, and were distinct from Eskimos who lived along the coast. In 1949, a group of nomadic Nunamiuts established a settlement near Anaktuvuk Pass. Simon Pa-neak, a knowledgeable elder for whom the museum was named, was one of the original group. Pa-neak died in 1975.

By the mid-1960s the community had an airstrip, which Kunz used occasionally as a dropping-off point when he began his archaeological work in the region about 25 years ago. Kunz first met Spearman in 1975, shortly after Spearman had received a degree in anthropology. They were both working on cultural resource clearances for the trans-Alaska pipeline right-of-way.

"It's no exaggeration to say that there is no one in the world who knows more about the Nunamuit Eskimo than Grant, except the Nunamuit themselves," Kunz said. Spearman was instrumental in establishing the museum in 1986. Operated by the North Slope Borough, it drew about 1,500 visitors last year.

"The significance of the Mesa site is that it is the first to link the Paleoindian culture here with sites in the Lower 48," Spearman said. Stone projectile points found here are nearly identical to points found at the Agate Basin site in Wyoming, and the time frame for each site is similar, he said.

Spearman said the Paleoindian culture was different from cultures in Siberia dating from a similar time. Paleoindian sites have been found in the Lower 48 and Alaska but not in Siberia. Siberian cultures have been found in Siberia and Alaska but not in the Lower 48. Both cultures are believed to have traveled across the Bering Land Bridge during the Ice Age.

—Andy Williams

AFS seeks minorities



Dan Gullickson

Members of the Northstar Fire Crew practice fire-fighting skills in Fairbanks before being sent out on a wildfire.

The Alaska Fire Service has centered on the Northstar Fire Crew as part of an overall strategy to recruit minorities. Alaska Natives already make up most of the emergency firefighter crews called for extended-attack fires. They have specialized knowledge about the areas and conditions in which fires are fought, and it makes sense to recruit them for initial-attack crews, said Howard Harrell, equal employment opportunity specialist for AFS.

The Northstar crew was set up in 1987 as a training crew, and an interim step between the emergency firefighter crews and the hotshots. When vacancies occur in the two hotshot crews, the Northstars are considered first.

Dave Jandt, hotshot program leader, said last year the Northstars hired six Natives. Including the Northstars and the two hotshot crews—61 positions in all—Alaska Natives made up about 30 percent and women 13 percent of the workforce.

Serving on a hotshot crew can be a stepping stone into the fire program. Smokejumpers usually hire from the hotshot program, and fire suppression specialists and fire managers are recruited there, too.

Harrell says certain cultural and institutional barriers impede movement by minorities into the workforce. In the past, recruiting has focused in the villages, where people have been reluctant to leave. "Now we're also focusing in urban areas on people who have already left the villages."

Only 10 to 15 positions are usually available on the Northstar crew, and only 10 or 12 on the two hotshot crews. More than 100 applications are usually received. Positions with the smokejumpers are even more competitive. Crew supervisor Jim Raudenbush said he expects no more than five to ten openings among the 68 positions this year. "We like to hire off the Alaska hotshot crews because they have the experience we're looking for and we have the recommendation of the crew boss," he said.

Harrell said more and more Alaska Natives and other minorities will take their places among the smokejumpers and in other positions in the fire organization as they move up from the Northstar and the hotshot crews. "What's happening with the hotshots and the smokejumpers is the epitome of diversifying a workforce," he said.

—Andy Williams

In the first quarter of fiscal year 1995, the State of Alaska received title to more than 210,000 acres, according to figures released by the BLM.

Alaska Native corporations received more than 71,000 acres of land, and title was issued to 50 Native allotment parcels. These federal land conveyances are required by the Alaska Statehood Act, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other laws.

The state is entitled to about 104.5 million acres, and to date, has received either patent or tentative approval to 88 million acres. The BLM still must survey and issue patent to 67.54 million acres of land for the state.

Alaska Native corporations are due to receive a total of 45 million acres. So far, BLM has issued either patents or interim conveyance to 36 million acres. Thirty-two million acres still must be surveyed and patented by the BLM for Native Alaskans.

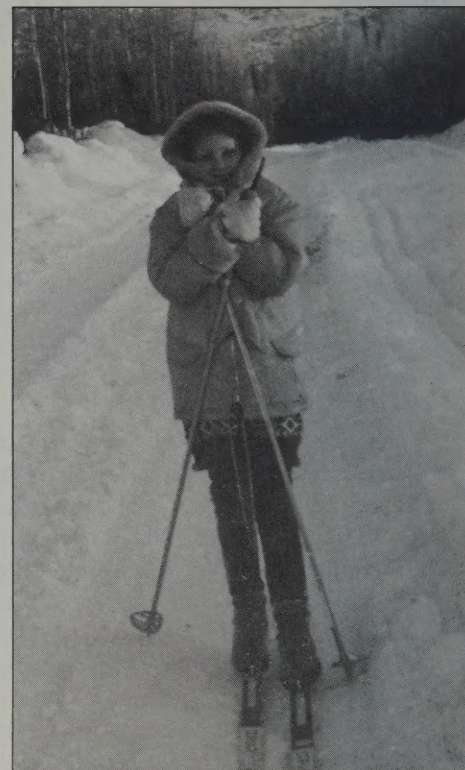
Completing the land transfer program in Alaska remains a top priority for BLM.

The BLM-Alaska "638" cadastral survey program was named Project of the Year recently by the International Right of Way Association.

The award citation praised BLM's efforts in "638" survey contracting, "BLM could have resisted and dragged its feet to protect the status quo and the established bureaucracy. Instead they used their special skills and ability to provide Alaska Natives with the tools they needed to do a good job."

Under the Indian Self-Determination Act (Public Law 93-638), Alaska Native organizations may contract with BLM to survey lands they have selected under Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the Native Allotment Act. To date, BLM has awarded \$9.4 million in survey contracts to Native groups throughout the state.

The International Right of Way Association is a nonprofit professional organization for persons involved in the acquisition, management or disposal of real estate for public agencies.



Danielle Allen

Seven degrees is too cold for Gabrielle Allen, who assisted her mother, BLM public affairs specialist Danielle Allen, with a visitor survey one weekend at the Campbell Tract. The tract is located in BLM's Anchorage District.



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